

The Worker



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UN FALKLANDS VOTE A DEFEAT FOR THATCHER

WORLD CONDEMN BRITISH IMPERIALISM

THE GOVERNMENT can hold all the parades and investitures and bang all the big drums it likes, the 90 to 12 vote at the UN in support of the Argentine resolution shows that the world condemns Britain as a shabby little imperialist power holding on desperately to the fruits of past conquests like the south Atlantic island, northern Ireland, Hong Kong and Gibraltar.

The connection between declining capitalism in Britain and the sickening wave of jingoism was shown all too obviously in the City of London's staging a Falklands jamboree to the glory of Thatcher from which the Royal family themselves were excluded, lest they detract from the ceremonious reviewing of her troops by the armed goddess of finance capital.

Underpinning all this recent activity is the question of Ireland. As Britain's oldest colony Ireland was used as a model of exploitation and an example of further expansion. The success or failure of this military intervention to a large extent has determined the scope and range of such exploitation and expansion elsewhere.

So today the quiescence of the British working class in the face of the continuing, often brutal, suppression of the Irish people allows the

possibility of imperialist revival. Thatcher can strut the world stage proclaiming the Falklands, or Gibraltar, or Hong Kong, or wherever to be British because we have allowed her to proclaim the Britishness of part of Ireland. She can then wage war in pursuit of such claims because of our acceptance of the war waged daily in Ireland.

The world condemns Britain as a shabby little imperialist power holding on desperately to the fruits of past conquests like south Atlantic islands, northern Ireland, Hong Kong and Gibraltar

Nothing shows more clearly the failure of the Parliamentary Labour Party to oppose Thatcherism than its silence on the vicious extravagance in human lives and

our money of the Falklands misadventure. This is a result of its bi-partisan imperialist stand on Ireland. It was a Labour Government that sent the troops into northern Ireland in 1969. This is the legacy of years of sordid involvement in repressive wars in Malaya and Kenya and Aden, of collaboration with the US in their war on the Vietnamese people.

The new Spanish Government demands the return of Gibraltar to Spain; the Chinese have politely but firmly told Thatcher that she is not going to keep hold of Hong Kong 'in perpetuity', and now the United Nations - including the United States - have supported Argentina's just claim to the Falkland Islands, and told Thatcher to come down from cloud-cuckoo land and sit down at the negotiating table. The rest of the world says no to Thatcher - when will we, the working class at home, tell her to get out?

Health-the next phase of battle

THE FIRST phase of the fight of the health workers against Thatcher and her destruction of the NHS is ending. Their solidarity in a struggle that is vital for the whole working class drew into sympathetic action many other sections of workers. That anti-Thatcher impetus must now be directed to the defence of any part of our health service under threat.

The link between pay and cuts was made very early on in the six months of the campaign, not least because the Government had always insisted that part of the cost of any settlement must be met from existing NHS budgets.

As the fight progressed, health workers learned a lot about Thatcher and a lot about the need for a strong and comprehensive health service. The main lesson was that Thatcher does not want a health service at all.

So now the workers are assessing the situation and dealing with the fact that, while in terms of winning a straight pay claim there will not be an outright victory in this dispute without getting

rid of Thatcher, they have already achieved a massive victory in conducting a campaign, initially over pay but which has become a battle for the health service itself and a direct challenge to Thatcher's rule, for over six months.

They have also learnt the valuable lesson that the time when unions fought a yearly pay battle, perhaps with a few skirmishes over conditions in between claims, is gone forever. The Health Service - or indeed any other industry - will not again enjoy the luxury of any respite from the fight for the future until a revolution is made. So "ending the dispute" is not an option if there is to be a Health Service. If one dispute comes to an end, that is only because others are already taking its place. For there is



Photo: The Worker

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Scunthorpe fights to save steel works which dominates town

SCUNTHORPE is Steel. The steel works, huge in extent and still, as yet, very much alive, dominate the town on all sides. Everywhere you look in Scunthorpe you see steel. The town, as a modern civilised community, was built around steel, and it is impossible to imagine the town without it. Only Thatcher could imagine a body without a heart, an advanced country like Britain, without industry.

Like Corby, Scunthorpe was a Mecca which attracted workers for miles around, who left the land and became part of the industrial proletariat. They have never quite forgotten their roots,

and Scunthorpe prides itself on being 'the Garden Industrial Town', a very pleasant combination, a very civilised place.

No one in Scunthorpe kids himself, however, that they can return to the land, that the Garden can flourish without the Industry. That is just not on in the late twentieth century. So Scunthorpe is fighting, along with Sheffield and Ravenscraig, and all the other threatened steel towns, to save its heart, to maintain a civilised community, against Thatcher's pillage, against Thatcher's genocide.

● Scunthorpe Steelworks.
Photo: The Worker

Miners storm Parliament

PM tells workers he will intercede over mine, steelworks jobs

Protesters storm into Parliament

Minister asks BHP to delay sackings

Japanese giants invited into NW



WORKERS STORM IN

THE KEMIRA mine stay down strike is now over. 31 miners spent 16 days underground in this New South Wales mine. They refused to move until the company that owns the mine, Broken Hill Proprietary (BHP), withdrew sackings notices from 400 miners.

The Kemira strike caught the imagination of workers all over Australia and the pit head was the site of a constant vigil of miners and their families, ensuring that food and hot drink was supplied as well as moral support.

In the final week of the stay down strike, miners and steelworkers (BHP is a mining and steelmaking monopoly) went to Canberra to force the Fraser

government to stop 'not interfering' with market forces and do something about unemployment.

The 800 delegates to Canberra leaned against the bullet proof glass doors Parliament had locked against them. Thus began a second stay down strike, this time in the sacred castle of hot air and windy verbiage. In 45 minutes the prime minister, Fraser, agreed to meet a delegation and the 'storming of Parliament' was concluded.

The shock waves of this action hit newspaper editors heavily, and all the might of their wisdom was rained upon the leadership. After all, they thundered, it was bad enough that the economy was

falling apart without workers demanding the right to keep their jobs.

It was well-known that those workers' demands had caused unemployment in the first place. Certainly it was not the fault of capitalism. Now workers were demanding immunity from the punishment editors had long warned would be meted out if they kept fighting for wages.

Then the sanctity of Parliament, not the place to invade, after all what would become of democracy if everyone demanded a say? One editor recalled the Bastille and the reply of the Duc de la Rochefaucauld-Liancourt to King Louis' question 'Is it a revolt?'

"No Sire, it is a revolution". The Winter Palace was dragged in too.

The Speaker of the House of Representatives, Sir Billy Sneddon spoke to the workers thus, "What you did today was to put the Parliament at risk. The Parliament is for your protection." Whether he was heard is not known as his historic clothing has aroused much interest. "Who's this bastard in fancy dress?"

The action of the miners and steelworkers has strengthened the resolve of organised workers in Australia facing the deliberate creation of unemployment and the destruction of manufacture that the 'monetarists' prescribe to keep capitalism alive.

Pope out of Spain

THE SUPREME irony of the timing of the Pope's visit to Spain was that it came immediately following the election of the first progressive government there for over 40 years. The crushing of democracy in the Spanish Civil War and the many years of fascist repression which followed had the full backing of the Catholic Church, which has continued to do all in its power to ensure that the Spanish people remained in thrall of reaction.

When the Pope recalled, "the well known tensions, sometimes leading to open clashes, which have taken place in the bosom of your society," he omitted to mention the role of the Church in fermenting

these clashes.

The new socialist government is committed to relaxing Spain's anti-abortion laws and allowing civil divorce, both measures which have long been demanded by the Spanish people themselves. That inveterate meddler in all affairs where reaction comes up against the force of progress paid the new government the courtesy in later speeches of effectively condemning them to eternal damnation! While urging respect for the new government, the Pope's main message was that the Church retains the right to interfere in civil matters with the old war cries of no abortion, no contraception, no divorce.

Bolshevik Revolution -

65 years of socialism

AT A Public Meeting held by the Community Party of Britain (Marxist-Leninist) celebrating the 65th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution the speaker gave a masterly account and summary of the issues to be examined.

The Bolshevik Revolution not only changed Russia beyond recognition: it changed the whole world. Until October 1917 Britain, the oldest capitalist country, had been a giant human laboratory in which social scientists of all descriptions had studied the contradictions between capital and labour. Britain was the home of the largest and most highly organised working class.

Yet the class contradictions engendered by capitalism led to revolution first in Russia with a numerically small working class. What existed in Russia to make this possible was the Bolshevik party: no such communist party existed then in Britain.

The Russian Revolution was about doing away with exploitation: it was made by workers in the interests of workers. The world since 1917 can be divided into those for and those against the Soviet Union. Since the very inception of the USSR the capitalist class has been bent on its destruction, destruction of the 'spectre' made reality. The speaker outlined graphically the attempts to 'crush Bolshevism in the cradle.' The new workers' state was attacked on all fronts at its birth and these forces were repulsed only by the incredible determination of the Russian workers and the support of workers throughout the world. In Britain dockers refused to load the 'Jolly George' and there was the threat of a

Now private steelworks are to close

FOLLOWING the accelerated closure of the public steel industry in Britain, jobs and plant in the private sector are now also subject to government attack. The destruction wrought by Thatcher and MacGregor on BSC works country-wide, is paralleled in the private sector under the guise of the Department of Industry's 'private steel sector rationalisation scheme'.

The latest threat to our jobs and industry under the auspices of this scheme is currently underway in the North West in the form of a takeover bid for Manchester Steel. This takeover bid threatens at least 800 jobs along with the closure of works in Manchester and Bidston on Merseyside.

Just like the beleaguered BSC plants Ravenscraig and Redcar, the Manchester Steel works at Beswick also has brand new plant. The old pretence that plant, because it is old and therefore no longer competitive, must be closed in favour of more modern equipment is now exposed. It is no longer individual antiquated plants being run down, but a whole industry, old and new.

We must see the 'survival' plans proposed for Manchester Steel in their true light. These include substantial job losses and a wage freeze for a year after the workers had accepted only a 3 per cent pay rise this year to try and save their jobs.

Capitalism has no survival plans for the steel industry in Britain. This can no longer be in any doubt; the condition of the takeover of Manchester Steel is the "...immediate closure of its UK steel plants and the cessation of production."

gain under capitalism, is to be destroyed - what need of health, educated workers in a deindustrialised land?

The working class with the Party in the vanguard must seize power, there can be no compromise.

In conclusion the speaker said that in celebrating their revolution the Russian workers would want us to go away with the resolve - to do it here, make revolution in Britain.



Health fight. Continued from page 1.

no safe place to retreat to. Health workers cannot withdraw from the battleground even if they wanted to, for withdrawal in this instance would mean handing over the health service lock, stock and barrel to destruction.

But there can be no denying that health workers and the workers who have so staunchly marched with them are very tired. The change in tack emerging in several parts of the country is therefore a welcome indication that health workers are determined to use the forms of organisation built up during the pay fight to draw together more people in defence of the Service. Union liaison groups focussed on one or more hospital or health care units made up of health union members and community organisers are coordinating publicity and workplace action in defence of the Health Service.

Many of the horrific proposals for reduction in services in Oxfordshire have

Editorial

THE GOVERNMENT's interpretation of the miners' vote as a green light for exacting wage cuts and higher unemployment in the public sector explains Tebbit's eagerness for legislation to make every strike decision and the election of every union official subject to a secret ballot.

We have our own ideas about democracy in our unions - and in general.

Workers at the point of production or at workplaces deciding in the mass whether to take industrial action over wages or conditions or keeping that workplace going at all is one thing. Workers by themselves, in their homes, subject to all the pressures of rent or mortgage demands, of final notices for service payments, of the universal condemnation of industrial action by newspapers, radio and television is quite another. In one case the worker is voting as a productive agent in social labour, in the other as a private consumer on his own.

The secret ballot makes any issue a question of individual conscience. It is the natural form of bourgeois democracy, an expression of the individualism and competitiveness of the bourgeois ethos. The open voting of fellow workers for a course of joint action makes any issue a question of working class interest. It is the natural form of proletarian democracy. It is like those Russian soldiers in the first World War throwing down their rifles and marching home to take part in revolution who were described by Lenin as voting with their feet.

That is not to argue, of course, that the secret ballot is exclusively bourgeois - only that it is one of the devices which has on the whole served ruling class interests very well as an apparently democratic way of keeping things as they are - what Marx has described as the right of workers to vote every four years on who is to exploit them. It is of this kind of voting that the graffiti on Lord Hill's Bridge, north Kensington, says: "If voting changed anything, they would make it illegal."

A strike can be like a little revolution. While it lasts the workers have put an end, at whatever cost to themselves, to their exploitation and operate for the duration of that strike a dictatorship of the proletariat even if over a very limited area. For workers to accept the necessity of having a secret ballot before taking such action would be like those revolutionaries in Austria who when asked why they had not taken control of the central railway station are reputed to have replied that they did not have enough platform tickets.

The south Wales miners took industrial action before when pits were threatened with closure and the Government had to back off. If Thatcher treats this vote as an invitation to start closing down some 40 pits called by the Coal Board's capitalist logic 'uneconomic' she will find herself being trampled by a lot of miners voting with their feet.

Threadbare industry

22,000 jobs in the North West, in the stricken textile industry, are on the line. The number of jobs in the textile trade has halved in the last three years. Many of these jobs are, in reality, part-time jobs with so many firms on short-time working.

The Manchester-based group, Vextona, are making a bid for Carrington-Viyella. ICI, which owns 49 per cent of Carrington, have promised not to sell their share but to take a quarter share in the new group.

If the takeover goes ahead, there will be some 'restructuring'. But as everyone knows, that means redundancy among the 22,000 now employed by the two companies.

The takeover, it is said, is an attempt to arrest the downward spiral of the textile industry, which has been in steep decline for many years. Few are convinced, however, that this merger is anything but one more step on the

road to final destruction.

Twenty years ago, the industry went into a major 'scrap and re-equip exercise' which closed 400 mills and cost 100,000 jobs. The saga of closure and redundancy has gone on from there. The Carrington-Viyella group - a result of the merger of Carrington-Dewhurst and Viyella in 1970 - alone has shed 8000 workers in the last two years.

So swift is the decline that many bosses and union leaders are convinced that there will be no British textile industry in a year or two. Both sides of the industry constantly call for protection against the flood of cheap foreign imports.

The only action being taken, however, is to lobby Parliament. This is the politics of despair. The fight to take on employers and the government for the textile industry must begin soon or there will be no industry left to protect.



Photo: The Worker

Turnpikes - Thatcher's future roads

PRIVATE main roads could become a reality in Britain if David Howell, the Transport Secretary, pushes ahead with his ideas. Civil engineering contractors, who have been lobbying in Whitehall for several years now on this very point, could well start building the first projects before the next election, and are already licking their lips in anticipation.

The idea currently being touted by the Adam Smith Institute (an imposing name for yet another Thatcher think-tank) and taken up by Howell is that private contractors can build the roads, then receive a royalty based upon the amount of traffic using them. As

it is envisaged that most of the initial roads would be bypasses with heavy usage, such a scheme would guarantee an endless stream of profit into the pockets of the employers, all financed from our taxes.

Running second to this form of privatisation is the toll system, which already operates on motorways in several European countries - and on several bridges in Britain too. But there are problems with toll roads: operating problems for the capitalists, and political problems for the governments who find themselves faced with people who object to having to pay extra for what should be a

public service.

The next step could be selling off existing roads, such as the M1, and the progressive abandonment by the government of any responsibility for maintaining the trunk road network. Indeed, a rundown of existing trunk roads would help shift traffic onto the private ones.

Those who believe that London Transport should be subsidised by tolls on motorists entering the capital should beware: they are contributing to a climate of opinion which will bring us back to the 18th century, with money to pay at each stage of the journey, and travel the prerogative of the rich, not the right of the workers.



Workers from the Clydebridge steel works, under threat of closure, on the march organised by the miners, rail workers and steel workers which took place in October 1982.

Photo: The Worker

Thatcher to appoint her own

THATCHER wants to replace senior civil servants by political appointees and advisors. A report (by a political appointee) recommends the creation of a new Cabinet Office headed by outsiders (political appointees), and that senior civil servants be replaced by political appointees. Only sweeping changes in Whitehall would enable Thatcher to achieve her objectives, says the report. 'How can you have a radical government without radically minded officials?'

With Thatcher's move against the civil service, the 'executive', the steps towards a completely unaccountable and uncontrollable dictatorship go one step further. Already the Prime Minister in Britain has an enormous amount of concentrated power.

On matters of defence and foreign affairs, most important things are kept secret even from MPs. On questions of finance, the crucial question of all, MPs have no control - except to debate. In the words of Tony Benn, the Commons is shrinking back to the 'role of ex post-facto auditor of decisions already made, leaving government MPs with nothing to do but troop through lobbies in endless votes of confidence'.

Only the Prime Minister knows the full extent of the security services' activities - in recent times even MPs' phones have been tapped without their knowledge. The Prime Minister, once installed, has total authority over who shall wield power - she appoints and dismisses, at will, 23 cabinet ministers, 32 ministers of state, 52 junior ministers, the

chairmen of nationalised industries. She has already appointed over half the civil service's permanent secretaries.

But she wants more power, more exclusive control, and that is what the move for political appointees is all about.

She has shown her intentions with her treatment of her own cabinet, dismissing anyone who dares even to question a policy, creating cabinets within cabinets, inner committees within committees when she couldn't get her

own way. She will not brook any opposition, from any quarter. She must be allowed to achieve her objectives.

She seized power with the votes of less than 33 per cent of the electorate - on a platform which should be banned by the Advertising Standards Authority if it weren't called 'politics'. She uses the British Constitution to say she has a mandate to destroy Britain. Now she turns on the constitution itself. Citizens beware!

TAXES AND INFLATION

NO MATTER what the Government tells us, it is almost inevitably true that the opposite is the case. Their claim that they have reduced the burden of taxation on working people is a good example

In a set of figures recently released by the Treasury it was revealed that everyone except the very rich is paying between 8 and 17 per cent more in taxes now than four years ago. Those fortunate enough to be earning five times the national average, and that must number precious few Worker readers, have had their tax bill cut by about 6½ per cent.

Doubtless as a pre-election gambit the Chancellor of the Exchequer will give us some sort of tax cut in the next budget. But one thing that we can be sure of is that it will not be enough to bring us back to the position before Thatcher was elected.

The same is true of inflation.

We are told that the rate of inflation is going down. The London evening newspaper The Standard, even had a headline 'Prices Down'. But it does not mean that prices are going down: just that they are not going up so fast. Like taxes we have seen prices soar, and much of that is due to indirect taxes like VAT, in order to be brought down again. And at the cost to the country of four million unemployed, and a devastated industrial base.

For Thatcher this strategy has achieved its purpose in as much as these relentless pressures simply to survive in Britain today have caused people to question their very worth. Not only in terms of how much they expect to earn, but also education for their children, health, culture, or even the most basic right to work. The talents of our young people are turned into disaffection and nihilism.

Queen's Speech a circus: we want bread

SINCE the last Queen's Speech, a year ago, 300,000 workers have lost their jobs. In the three months March-June of this year 182,000 jobs were lost. Thus the rate of job-loss is accelerating even before the winter months take their traditional toll. These figures are a monument to our neglect.

The State Opening of Parliament took place against the background of the miners' ballot decision and BL workers' acceptance of a two-year pay deal. The latter heartened Thatcher who saw it as "a vote of confidence in government policy", despite evidence to the contrary since that decision. No matter: the decision by miners and car workers for indecision means that Thatcher's time in office is lengthened. Their preference for an easy life means that the task for the rest of the working class, especially those in struggle with the Government, is that much harder.

Cut-price bargains

The cut-price selling off of public resources to private interests is set to continue. Redundancies and industrial contraction are the intended result of this 'privatisation' at British Telecom, British Shipbuilders and British Airways, if we allow it. Thatcher, however, recognises that several more years are needed to complete this process, if we allow her.

Thus the latest programme of legislation has been assembled with a 1983 general election in mind. The sudden lowering of interest rates is an electoral manoeuvre; the insistence by Thatcher that local authorities have invested £1600 million less than they could, and Heseltine's parallel attempt to pressure coun-

Civil Servants to consider strike as part of their new pay campaign

THE SOCIETY of Civil and Public Servants will consider the use of strike action in support of their 1983 pay campaign at a conference in Birmingham on 6 and 7 December. They are the second largest civil service union and it is anticipated that similar proposals will be put forward by the other civil service unions; the CPSA and the IRSF.

These unions are obviously prepared to grasp the nettle from the start and kick firmly into touch the government's stated target of a 3½ per cent pay rise next year for some public sector workers. It is to be hoped that other public sector unions, such as the teachers and college lecturers, who have acceded to low settlements with little or no action over the past two years will, this time, join forces with the civil servants and show that they too are prepared to fight on pay.

The time for believing in cash limits, the threats of job losses if pay settlements are high enough is long gone. Only by fighting for a decent standard of living will these groups of workers retain their dignity, the standards of their jobs and, therefore, make them worth fighting for.

cils into capital building programmes are part of that same manoeuvre. The intention is that a number of the 450,000 unemployed building trade workers be in work by spring. That industry, because it is so labour-intensive is the easiest to massage into an apparent 'boom'.

The Chancellor, Howe, has about £3000 million to squirt through the economy, much in the form of tax cuts. But since 1979 his government has taken £6000 million extra

in tax out of people's pockets. The majority are paying up to 17 per cent more in tax than they were before this 'tax-cutting' government entered office. The extra £4000 million he will have with the abolition of the NHS and the introduction of private health insurance, proposals from the 'think tank', is an issue that has been pushed on to the back-burner, for now.

The Queen's Speech is a ritualised occasion more likely to draw publicity to the

monarch than analysis of content. We want bread but we get a circus. Glittering reality atop grim reality. As usual, the former got the headlines. Ethereal journalism cannot capture that moment of historical irony: that a constitutional monarchy is of less worry to us now than the 'divine right' of a prime minister. If under the one we are supposed to exist as subjects, under the other we live as slaves. It is no way to live in the 1980s.

Transport Bill

will spell disaster for cheap fares

THE GOVERNMENT'S White Paper and Transport Bill announced by Howell, the Secretary of State for Transport, is intended to destroy cheap public road transport throughout Britain.

Supposedly the Bill was introduced in response to the chaos resulting from the cessation of the "fares fair" policy in London.

There is no chaos in public transport elsewhere in Britain. The situation in London was directly caused by the Government inspired attack on what after all was only a forward-looking transport policy of the GLC, used successfully elsewhere in Britain and around the world.

Guidelines

The Transport Bill, when law, will direct local authorities to keep fare subsidies at a 'reasonable level' - it says nothing about keeping fares at a reasonable level.

The 'guidelines' set out in the White Paper set spending targets far below those envisaged by the local transport authorities, and in the way that this government enforces guidelines will result in massive fare increases and contraction of services throughout Britain.

Since the transport fares in London were doubled, London's roads have become even more jammed as commuters return to using their cars, and bus and tube schedules have been contracted such that one is in danger of having one's ribs broken trying to get on a tube train in all the crush.



Stanfords strike saves hard won gains

THE AFTERMATH of the attempt to unionise the Foyles bookshop has seen a stepping up of the employers' attempt to root out trade unionism in the retail booktrade in London.

Workers at Stanfords, the renowned map shop in central London, no sackings would take place - a

have come out on strike in support of a colleague dismissed a month ago. With management refusal to recognise the TGWU came an attempt to lengthen the working week (which for many includes 6 day working). Despite assurances that

shop steward who opposed the unilateral introduction of longer working hours was dismissed. The workers who only in June voted to join the TGWU promptly struck, gaining immediate official recognition.

The shop is completely shut down and no deliveries are taking place and the owners have been forced to negotiate through ACAS. The workers learning from the Foyles experience and at the Collie chain where redundancies were recently beaten and a large wage rise won, are standing firm, the best remedy for the employers' poison.

Photo: Andrew Wiard (Report)

Workers fight spy cameras, alarms and guards in Slough

FOR MORE than 3 months workers in the General and Municipal Workers' Union at Heathfield's, an electric cable drum manufacturer in Slough, have been locked out in a pay dispute. Against the workers picketing the factory are ranged spy cameras, alarm bells and security guards.

The dispute began on 15 July when 21 GMWU workers in one department decided to work at production levels which were below the company's "productivity targets" in pursuit of a pay claim. That evening the company delivered dismissal notices direct to the workers' homes.

The following morning all were locked out and their jobs were being done at a substantially reduced rate by untrained juvenile labour that had been recruited through the MEP Agency in Reading.

By 26 July the remaining 17 GMWU members at Heathfield's were called out in support and were also subsequently sacked. Since this time the factory has been picketed seven days a week, and as a consequence of pressure by other unions in the area several companies

have now agreed to cease trading with Heathfield for the duration of the dispute.

The action has prompted several physical attacks on the pickets both outside the factory and at their homes. The police have offered no protection against intimidation of black and asian pickets from racist organisations who have taken the side of the company.

In essence the dispute is not unusual in that it provides ample illustration of the reaction in this country that Thatcherism has brought about. However, the workers in this dispute are not prepared to tolerate 19th century attitudes and are united in their objective of attaining re-instatement.

As one picket said, "The trade union and labour movement will not be defeated by an employer like Heathfield who tries to turn workers against workers and black against whites."

Not surprisingly the company have now increased the wages of the rest of the workforce due to the pressure by those who have been locked out. The dispute continues.

THE WORKER

It has been necessary to raise the price of THE WORKER from 5p to 10p (as from issue No. 36, 14th October, 1982). The annual subscription has therefore been raised to £12.00, and the rate for 6 months to £6.00.

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Clarion Books 5 The Precinct, Stanford-le-Hope, Essex

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Public Meetings

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MANCHESTER

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